

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following at page 1, after the title and before line 1:

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

Please amend the heading at page 1, line 10:

Background2. Related Art

Please delete the following at page 2, line 30:

Prior art:

Please amend the heading at page 5, line 21:

Summary of the inventionSUMMARY

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 22:

Contrary to the above, present exemplary embodiments of the present invention aim to identify the “fastest”, “nearest” or otherwise most appropriate server for an individual user, or the fastest, best or most reliable connection, in order that a connection may then be established by that individual user to a server that is not only appropriate for the multimedia content download or other such data exchange required by that user, but that is least likely to be slowed down or overloaded due to it also providing data to a large number of other users. According to preferred embodiments of the present invention, this identification process may be carried out without the user needing to install or execute specific software on his or her own machine.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 32:

According to the present ~~invention~~ exemplary embodiment there is provided a system for selecting a preferred data provider from a plurality of data providers, the system comprising:

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, beginning at line 22:

According to the present ~~invention~~ exemplary embodiment, there is also provided a method for selecting a preferred data provider from a plurality of data providers, the method comprising the steps of:

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, beginning at line 13:

By using systems and methods according to presently described embodiments of ~~the present invention~~, it is possible to solve the problems outlined above by running a small testing process which may be completely invisible to the end-user and which does not require the installation or execution of any specific software on the user's machine, when the user wishes to try to access video content or other data, thus determining from a number of available Video Servers or other data providers the most reliable, fastest, least congested or otherwise most appropriate one for the particular user. In this way, the user may receive the best possible data download or data stream by connecting to the most "reliable" one, thus enhancing the user's experience in relation to multimedia and other such applications.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, beginning at line 4:

In systems according to preferred embodiments ~~of the invention~~, the means for instructing said data providers is a means remote from the client, such as a centralised server. The term "remote" need not imply that the instructing means and the client are geographically distant, but merely that the respective functions of the client and the instructing means are not performed by a common processing means on a client machine. It will be clear that irrespective of the respective physical locations of the client and the server, something other than the client performs the "instructing", thus there is no need for software to be downloaded to a client machine.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, beginning at line 14:

Systems according to embodiments ~~of the invention~~ may be arranged to select a preferred data provider only from data providers having a remaining capacity above a predetermined threshold, effectively disqualifying any data providers whose remaining capacity is below that predetermined threshold. Alternatively, the final selection may be made in order to obtain the best balance between the respective factors represented by the two types of signals (i.e. elapsed time and remaining capacity) without the decision being constrained by specific thresholds.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, beginning at line 1:

Systems according to embodiments ~~of the invention~~ may select more than one "preferred" data provider. In this case, they may provide information relating to a plurality of preferred data providers to the user, possibly in the form of a list indicating a ranking, based on the order in which they performed in the respective tests (i.e. best,

second-best etc.), or alternatively, any that performed above predetermined quality thresholds may be identified to the user.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, beginning at line 9:

Reference will be made to the following technologies in the description of preferred embodiments of the invention: RMI, JAVA, Servlets, HTML. Information about these technologies is publicly available, but a brief summary is given here for the purposes of avoiding the possibility of ambiguity in relation to the terminology, and the abbreviations and acronyms associated therewith.

Please amend the heading at page 10, line 1:

~~Brief Description of the Drawings~~ BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the heading at page 10, line 11:

~~Detailed Description~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY

EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the heading at page 10, before claim 1:

~~CLAIMS~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: